

THE 2010 CLARETIAN MISSION DAY

We are invited, again, to celebrate our universal Claretian Mission Day. It is really a privileged occasion because we can live with more intensity our communion with other Claretians who in various parts of the world accompany others as they respond to their dignity as children of God. Bringing to mind the lives of these peoples, and that of the missionaries who work with them, opens up for us new horizons of solidarity. Through the celebration of this Claretian mission journey, we want to rethink the universal dimension of our missionary work and to offer some concrete ways to collaborate in it.


The recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have motivated a big response in solidarity from all over the world. The images that the media has presented to us, along with the testimonies of so many people who have lost their family and friends have struck our hearts. In addition, we sympathize when we have seen how their houses that were built with a lot of effort have been swept away. These images have been extraordinary. We cannot pretend as if nothing has happened. As Claretians, we have tried to contribute something along with the thousands of others who are part of this action of solidarity. The Claretians in Haiti and the Dominican Republic have generously taken care of the victims of the earthquake. The Claretians in Chile are being organized to help with the reconstruction of what was destroyed. Many of our missionary centers have been enlisted to help.

We have planned this year to focus our attention on the strength that impels us towards solidarity and urges us to take concrete action. "Forge ahead with the fire of love": This theme invites us to deepen the mystery of the human heart that is not unsympathetic to the pain of other human beings. From our vision of faith, we know that this feeling of closeness and communion is a fruit that was forged with the same burning love of God the Father that seals our lives. When we are able to let this fire burn in each one of our dimensions, its heat and light are united to create many more fires that seek to enlighten the new and fraternal solidarity we all yearn for.

The Claretian Mission Day wants to open our horizons to make us feel fraternity with those who are living far apart from us and to let them know that they are part of our life and that of so many brothers. We ask all of you, again, to become a voice at your educational centers, at parishes and youth centers, and at institutes of higher education for the life of our brothers and sisters who work among those who experience the painful consequences of an unjust world. You can also become a voice during your homilies and preaching or when you run into so many others with whom you will be in contact in various ways. We also ask you all to help us form Claretians who are willing to live their missionary vocation with a generous heart. A concrete way to support the mission is to support the Claretian Formation Centers.

Therefore, I ask all of you to do your best in order to collaborate with the initiative that we carry on through the General Mission Procure.

Rome, March 10, 2010


Josep M. Abella, cmf.
General Superior